

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 190487  
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 CPR-03 SY-05 A-01 /072 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:LWILLEMS:LR  
APPROVED BY EUR:GSVEST  
L/EUR:JCROOK  
S/MS:CWKAMMAN  
EUR/SOV:WTSINN

-----110132 280021Z /21

O R 272346Z JUL 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 190487

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, ASEC, UR, US (BURMAN, HAROLD)

SUBJECT: US DIPLOMAT SHOVED BY MILITIA

REF: MOSCOW 17596 (NOTAL), MOSCOW 17526 (NOTAL)

1. DEPARTMENT CALLED IN SOVIET CHARGE VASEV JULY 27  
TO RECEIVE NOTE PROTESTING BURMAN INCIDENT. EUR ASSISTANT  
SECY VEST ALLUDED TO HIS RECENT CONVERSATION WITH VASEV  
ABOUT RAYMOND SMITH INCIDENT, AND NOTED THAT SUCH  
INCIDENTS ARE UNIQUE TO MOSCOW--NOWHERE ELSE IN THE  
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE COMMUNIST EASTERN  
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, DO THEY OCCUR. VEST ASKED VASEV IF  
HE HAD ANY EXPLANATION FOR "WHAT MAY BE HAPPENING THERE."

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 190487

2. VASEV TRIED TO ATTRIBUTE INCIDENT TO "COLD WAR  
ATTITUDE" OF PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO EMBASSY. HE SAID  
HE RECALLED PAST INCIDENTS IN WHICH EMBASSY PERSONNEL THREW  
OBJECTS AT MILITIA GUARDS FROM UPPER FLOORS, AND ATTEMPTED  
TO CONCEAL THEIR IDENTITIES TO PROVOKE MILITIA. HE  
COMMENTED THAT AMERICAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL "DO NOT VALUE  
THE PROTECTIVE SERVICES" OF MILITIA. VEST REITERATED HIS

AND DEPT'S PROTEST, AND POINTED OUT THAT AMERICAN INVOLVED WAS TDY DEPT OF STATE LAWYER IN MOSCOW FOR NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT CHANCERY CONSTRUCTION, AND NOT REGULAR MEMBER OF PERMANENT EMBASSY STAFF. VASEV WAS VISIBLY DISCOMFITED.

3. FULL TEXT OF DEPARTMENT'S NOTE FOLLOWS:

4. "THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE REFERS THE EMBASSY OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE DEPARTMENT'S NOTE OF JULY 20, 1978, AND PROTESTS THE CONTINUING INTERFERENCE WITH FREE ACCESS TO THE UNITED STATES CHANCERY IN MOSCOW BY SOVIET 'MILITIA' GUARDS.

5. "ON JULY 27 AT APPROXIMATELY 4:20 P.M. MR. HAROLD BURMAN, A DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICER IN MOSCOW SINCE JULY 2 ON TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW CHANCERY, WAS BLOCKED FROM ENTERING THE PRESENT CHANCERY BY A 'MILITIA' GUARD WHO PUSHED MR. BURMAN REPEATEDLY AND BEHAVED IN A GENERALLY ABUSIVE AND THREATENING MANNER TOWARD HIM. MR. BURMAN WAS ABLE TO ENTER THE BUILDING ONLY AFTER ANOTHER 'MILITIA' GUARD INTERCEDED AND LITERALLY DRAGGED THE OFFENDING GUARD AWAY.

6. "CONTINUING SOVIET INTERFERENCE WITH ACCESS TO THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY CHANCERY IS A FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 190487

CIVILIZED DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE, AND THE DEPARTMENT DEMANDS THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT CURTAIL THIS UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT OF THE SOVIET 'MILITIA' SURROUNDING THE UNITED STATES CHANCERY IN MOSCOW." CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL HARASSMENT  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** US DIPLOMAT SHOVED BY MILITIA  
**TAGS:** PDIP, ASEC, UR, US, (BURMAN, HAROLD)  
**To:** LENINGRAD MOSCOW  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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